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SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Dedicated to the Educational, Economic and Social Betterment of Older Montanans

Volume I **August, 1970** **Number 6**

White House Parley Plans Set

Foster Family Care For Elderly Started

Foster Family Care for the Aged, a new program to provide a home atmosphere for elderly persons who do not need nursing home or institutional care, has been initiated by the State Welfare Department.

Theodore Carkulis, Welfare Department administrator, said that the program will be tested in Cascade, Yellowstone, Missoula, Silver Bow, and Hill counties. It is anticipated that within a short time family foster home care will be established in other sections of the state.

According to Mr. Carkulis, Don Sekora, a graduate student who has had four years experience with the Welfare Department, is setting up the programs in five counties.

"We believe this new program will be of great benefit to many senior citizens," Mr. Carkulis said. "Foster Family

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State Agencies Unite for Publicity Drive

Ground work for Montana's participation in the 1971 White House Conference on Aging was laid July 23 when the state Council on Human Resources special committee to plan the state's part in the event met at the Commission on Aging office in Penkay Eagles Manor in Helena.

The committee is composed of Lyle Downing, chairman; Dr. John S. Anderson, State Health Department executive

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Search for Senior Citizen 'Beauty Queens'

Search is under way throughout Montana for "flowers from an old bouquet."

Walter and Doris Marshall, operators of Helena's Old Brewery Theater, are trying to locate 31 beauty contest winners, now Senior Citizens, who in 1904 represented Montana at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Marshalls want to invite the expostion delegates to a performance of the Broadway musical, "Meet Me in St. Louis," which was inspired by the St. Louis fair.

Only one of the beauty queens is known to still be living in Montana. She is Mrs. J.

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Director's Report

by Lyle Downing

Aging in Montana, a comprehensive survey of the needs and problems of the state's Senior Citizens, will be off the press late in August.

The year-long survey was made by the Institute for Social Science Research of the University of Montana. It was funded by the Commission on Aging under Title III of the Older Americans Act.

A cursory examination of a rough draft of the survey revealed that it sheds new light on the social and economic status of Montana's 70,000 Senior Citizens. Considerable space is given to a study of the problems of the aging in rural communities.

Dr. Gordon Browder, the Institute's director, had this to say about Senior Citizens in rural areas:

"While the elderly people in rural areas share many of the characteristics of older persons in urban districts, our study has shown some unique characteristics. Along with the general population, the aged tend to leave rural areas and move to urban centers. In disproportionate numbers, however, many remain in declining rural communities which are becoming void of the kinds of services and social opportunities the aged want and need."

"It has been found," Dr. Browder continued, "that most of the aged, from retirement to a very old age, do respond to opportunities for social interaction and relationships when available to them. Most of them continue to participate in quite intimate family relationships. More of them also are responding to aged peer-group relationships."

Dr. Browder pointed out also that transportation is a problem to many of the aged in both urban and rural communities. He said it is the one factor that often keeps older persons from participating in social interaction.

"It has been found, for instance, that without transportation elderly persons who live some distance away from the centers are not able to participate in activities. Providing transportation facilities has become a major goal of most Senior Centers."

According to Dr. Browder, organizations in the state for the aged were analyzed to determine how adequately they served the elderly. It was discovered, he said, there are more than 100 nursing and rest homes and 65 other organizations involved with the aging which are located in large urban areas.

"Important as these organizations are to the aged," Dr. Browder added, "all of them combined by no means adequately meet the social needs of Senior Citizens in Montana for three reasons: (1) Most of them serve only selective groups; (2) Many of the programs are too spasmodic; (3) All of them together reach numerically only a small percentage of the elderly."

"We discovered," he said, "that there are large numbers of aged persons in the state who are isolated with no apparent organizational or group affiliation. They need to be located, listened to, and involved."

Dr. Browder calls for better communication and cooperation between agencies dealing with the problems of the aging. He recommends that existing organizations of the aged be urged to do a more systematic job of periodically polling their membership to determine the desires of their members.

The Commission on Aging announced that an initial printing of 2,000 copies of the survey has been ordered. They will be available to state and federal agencies and other organizations serving Senior Citizens anywhere.

Who's Who on the Commission

Dr. A. Kearney Atkinson was born in White Plains, Kentucky. Dr. Atkinson attended the University of Michigan receiving degrees in chemistry and physiology and became a doctor of medicine. He now specializes in internal medicine in Great Falls.

Jackson's Mill, W. Va.—Dr. Leonard Riggleman, retired prexy of Morris Harvey College, told the Senior Citizens' Conference: "It's wonderful to grow old, because the only alternative is to die young."

John T. Plovanic was born in Bribir, Yugoslavia. Mr. Plovanic attended schools in Lewistown and has resided there for 61 years. During World War II he spent 16 months overseas. Mr. Plovanic was taught by his father to cut and lay stone and followed the trade of masonry contractor. In 1960 he became superintendent of the Montana Center for the Aged.

Elinor J. Barnes, Ph.D., retirement housing administrator, University of Arizona, Tucson, conferred with Montana Commission on Aging officials concerning prospective employment of interns from the College of Business and Public Administration at the Arizona University.

Remember . . .

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING

SEPTEMBER 17-18

Florence Hotel, Missoula

prologue to

1971

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

With global affairs in such turmoil, unfortunately it is apparent that a large segment of the population has decided it cannot change the world so is trying to short change it.

MONTANA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Walter Zimmerman, Director
Recreation Department-City of Billings
Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Center
13 North 29th Street
Billings, Montana 59101

James Todd, Director
Great Falls Senior Citizens Center
318 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

John F. Haugan, Director
Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center
424 Higgins Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Earle J. Tucker, Director
Helena Senior Centers
1421 Roberts Street—21 North Main Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Butte Silver Bow Senior Activity Center
405 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59034

Frank Bolton, Director
Flathead Senior Citizens Center
Main and First Streets
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dan Lopp, Deputy Director
Mineral County Senior Citizens Centers
Alberton Montana
Superior Montana
St. Regis Montana
508 Toole
Missoula Montana 59801

Mrs. Sallie M. Brutto Coordinator
The Senior Center of Hamilton
O'Hara House
109 South Fourth Street
Hamilton Montana 59840

Almer L. Thorson, President
Park County Senior Citizens Cenier
206 South Main
Livingston Montana 59047

Hugh Simanton Director
Malta Senior Citizens Center
206 South Second Avenue East
Malta Montana 59538

Walter S. Holtzman Director
Bozeman Senior Social Cenier Incorporated
37 East Main
Bozeman Montana 59715

Mrs. Eleanor Starina Director
Big Horn County Senior Citizens Association
518 Center Avenue
Hardin Montana 59034

STATEWIDE PLANNING—The special committee of the Montana Council on Human Resources met July 23 in Penkay Manor to formulate plans for the state's role in the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. Officially it was the first meeting of the Council's special White House committee which was appointed a month ago. Shown front row from the left: Dr. James F. Hall, University of Montana; Minna Miller, Commission on Aging secretary; Sidney T. Smith, state labor commissioner; Frank Sennett, administrative assistant to Governor Forrest H. Anderson; Lyle Downing, chairman of the special committee; Barclay Craighead, Montana Commission on Aging chairman; Jack Tucker, the Commission's fiscal officer and William Welsh,

White House Parley

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officer; Theodore Carkulis, State Board of Welfare administrator; Jack Carver, Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Department administrator; Sidney T. Smith, State Labor Commissioner; and Robert Cooney, State Fish and Game Commission.

Frank Sennett, administrative assistant to Governor Forrest H. Anderson, and Barclay Craighead, Montana Commission on Aging chairman, participated in the meeting.

The meeting was arranged at the request of James Gwaltney, Denver, assistant associate commissioner of the U.S. Administration on Aging. In addition, Mr. Gwaltney requested that representatives from the University of Montana and several other state agencies be present to discuss the employment of a planning coordinator by the Aging Commission.

While discussing the White House Conference, Mr. Downing explained that he had conferred with Gordon Bennett, Employment Security Commission chairman, and Mr. Carkulis, and they had agreed to have representatives of their agencies throughout the state spearhead an educational

representative of the state Department of Public Welfare. Standing from the left: Jack Carver, state Vocational Rehabilitation director; Dr. John S. Anderson, Montana Department of Health executive officer; Vern Vatland, Older Worker's supervisor for the State Employment Service; Raynor Roberts, University of Montana; Arnold Brown, University of Montana; James Gwaltney, regional assistant associate commissioner, U.S. Administration on Aging; Everett Darlinton, Montana Planning and Development Department; Robert Cooney, Montana Fish and Game Department and Vince Weggenman, Aging Commission field representative. Not shown are Jerry Madden, state Planning Department and Mrs. Janis Evje and Miss Margaret Hegner, Glasgow Air Force Base.

and publicity campaign to induce Senior Citizens to attend the Governor's Conference on Aging, September 17 and 18, at the Florence Hotel in Missoula.

"The Governor's Conference on Aging in Missoula," Mr. Downing said, "will serve as a curtain raiser for statewide planning for the Washington, D.C. conference. The White House Conference was called by President Nixon to bring into being a more realistic and comprehensive national policy for older Americans. It is vital that when the conference is held that Montana presents a program designed to spell out the needs of Senior Citizens in this state."

During the special committee meeting, Dr. James F. Hall, coordinator of Extension in Continuing Education at the University of Montana, said his department will cooperate with the state commission in obtaining a planner for the agency.

At this juncture Mr. Sennett made the following comment.

"I think that Dr. Hall's idea is a good one. We must not overlook the fact that Montana has a Department of Planning and Development and it is the main planning agency in the state. I think if you were going to make this a viable concept that we shouldn't hire our own planners. If you get a planner you should associate him with the Department of Planning and Development and have his office in that department."

Mr. Craighead said that Mr. Sennett's suggestion was a good one and it would be carried out. It also was approved by Mr. Gwaltney.

Unwanted Generation Featured in TIME

Time magazine (August 3) in a banner story, "Growing old in America—The Unwanted Generation" does a fine job in pointing out some of the problems and progress in the aging field.

Interspersed with literary quotations, the medical, political and social aspects of aging are handled with timely style—for example:

Old age should burn and
rave at close of day.
—Dylan Thomas

How socially involved older people should be is a question in hot dispute among students of aging. Some believe in the "theory of disengagement," which holds that aging is accompanied by an inner process that makes the loosening of social ties a natural process, and a desirable one. Others disagree. Says Harvard Sociologist Chad Gordon: "Disengagement theory is a rationale for the fact that old people haven't a damn thing to do and nothing to do it with."

Congratulations Time.

Foster Family Care

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Care for the Aged is not a new idea, but it will be new for this department. Homes will be certified for this service by our department."

"Foster Family Care for the Aged," he continued, "means just what the name implies. It provides that one or two independent or selected semi-independent elderly assistance recipients can live with a private family. It is not the intent of the program to provide a substitute for institutional care, but to furnish a level of care for individuals who do not need institutional care."

"The crux of the program," he added, "is that the elderly individual will be involved in selecting a home for himself and that the home will only be certified if it can offer a good, reliable, safe family setting. Foster home care will be paid out of the resident's assistance grant at the rate of $128 a month."

Persons interested in becoming foster parents to the aged should contact Mr. Sekora at the state welfare office in Helena or any county welfare office in the state.

Hamilton—Allen Bjergo, Ravalli County's new extension agent, described Norway's social program for its older citizens at a meeting of Hamilton Senior Citizens. Pensions, housing, and other related subjects were discussed.

Search for "Beauty Queens"

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P. Gary of Bozeman, the former Mae Marley of Big Timber. Mrs. Gary was Miss Sweetgrass County at the exposition.

When she was interviewed in Bozeman Mrs. Gary said she did not believe very many of the members of the Montana delegation were still alive. "They would all be at least 83 years old," she said.

"It was a wonderful experience," she declared. The trip to St. Louis was sponsored by the Butte Intermountain Newspaper. We all gathered in Butte and attended many social functions. I remember one of the highlights of our stay in Butte was attending a theater where Richard Mansfield, a matinee idol of that era, appeared in "Ivan the Terrible."

"After a late supper," Mrs. Gary continued, "the 31 girls were escorted to the Oregon Short Line depot by a crowd of 1,000 Butte residents. Mr. Mansfield and his troupe serenaded us as the train pulled out of the Mining City."

Mrs. Gary also recounted how the beauty queens made a triumphant entrance into St. Louis. She said one newspaper commented, "the finest looking girls of any delegation to visit the fair."

"When we returned to Butte," Mrs. Gary explained, "there was a dinner dance in our honor at the Columbia Gardens. The next day we departed for our homes."

Other members of the delegation were: Maud Hill, Beaverhead; Maude Pennell, Broadwater; Maude Chapman, Carbon; Netta Gervais, Cascade; Marion Auld, Chouteau.

Rose Gaylord, Custer; Julia Cuddihy and Nina Graham, Deer Lodge; Mary Osborne, Dawson; Mary Slack, Flathead; Mabel Suprenant, Fergus; Gertrude Shearer, Granite; Ella Arnold, Gallatin.

Josie Noonan, Jefferson; Delia Lawler, Lewis and Clark; Katheryn Swanstron, Madison; Victoria Cyr and Bessie Taylor, Missoula; Etta Hruza, Park.

Mabel Beaumont, Powell; Floy L. Olds, Ravalli; Margaret McRae and Floy A. Westaby, Rosebud; Laura Kilgallan, Mamie McNamara, and Alice Jackson, Silver Bow.

Kathryn Kennedy, Teton; Anna Ratchford, Valley; and Minnie V. Nord, Yellowstone.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of any of these women are asked to contact Walter Marshall at the Old Brewery Theater in Helena.

Butte—The Senior Citizen Center sponsored at their Hilltop Gallery a "Mod" art show —"Eggheads and Onion Peels." Entries were listed from all over the state. Thirty percent of the total selling prices was retained by the Hilltop Gallery.

James G. Todd, director of the Great Falls Senior Citizen Center says of his first job: "Due to a perfect attendance record and a blood relationship to the Chairman of the Board, I made rapid advances in the banking business. At the tender age of 18, I was head bookkeeper's assistant in Minneapolis for the largest trust company west of Chicago."

Mr. Todd's paycheck was not commensurate with the title so he turned to professional boxing. He had 93 bouts, losing three.

Construction work on flood prevention projects at Helena, Ark. and Greensville, Miss. preceded a call to the theater.

"Ackley's Comedians" was a traveling tent show in East Texas where he worked with a Senior Citizen African Bushman. In Houston he worked at the Metropolitan Theater, Majestic Theater and wound up as press agent for the Palace Theater. During that time he became acquainted with movie actors Clark Gable and Hugh Herbert who were working as "straight men" for a theatrical stock company. Gable was making ten dollars a week more than Todd.

Mr. Todd then became a "missionary salesman" for Burma Shave which promoted him to West Coast salesmanager. After several other selling positions he became a member of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in Seattle. He also worked for the United Steelworkers of America in Great Falls.

Mr. Todd's varied experience, he said, is of great help to him at the Great Falls Senior Citizen Center.

The Center has a vocational committee co-chaired by Geneva Parson for women and Harry Moore for men. It has a telephone referral, friendly visitors, an effective transportation plan and excellent food plus all forms of entertainment common to centers. Daily attendance at the center runs about 75 Seniors and is increasing.

Todd has a hobby of raising Pit Bull Terriers. He has ten on hand at the present time.

Butte — "Summertime for seniors" project will be enhanced by a $10,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This grant will be used to meet transportation needs of the elderly. Six thousand senior citizens will have access to the transportation program.

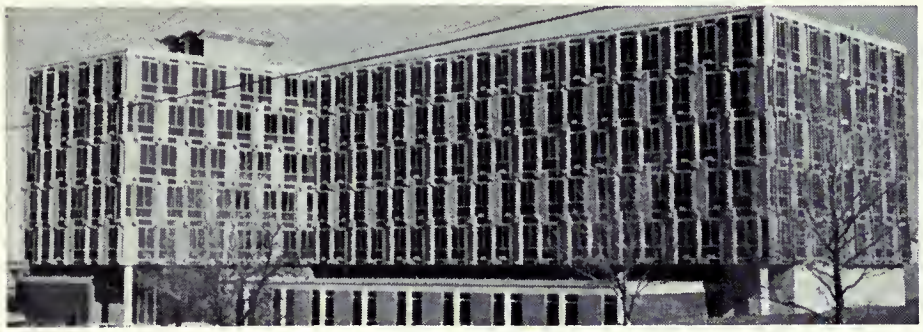
Ray L. Schwartz, National Coordinator of Regional and State Activities for the 1971 White House Conference on Aging, will be one of the speakers at the Montana Governor's Conference on Aging in Missoula, September 17 and 18. Mr. Schwartz is a former Rocky Mountain area representative of the National Council on Aging and was Iowa's first executive director of the Commission on Aging.

Helena—More Senior Citizens got jobs during April, May and June than any other age group according to Jess Fletcher, director of the Employment Service.

Seniors had a placement ratio of 64 per cent. Job seekers between 45 and 65 years of age came next with a ratio of 47 per cent while ages 22 to 45 got jobs at a ratio of 43 per cent. Under 22—38 per cent.

Vern Vatland, Older Worker supervisor, will continue to assist older Montanans with their contribution of experienced skills to the depressed economy.

Hank Dullum gives a few pointers to the Johnson twins, Dora and Lorna. The six-year-olds were on hand with the rest of the onlookers for the East Helena Recreation Council's fish derby for Senior Citizens. Hank said, "The big ones got away."
photo courtesy of the Boulder Monitor



Great Falls—Manager Gene Todd of Eagles Manor said that the senior citizen residences are at capacity and he is now renting three of the five apartments reserved for guests. The manor has a capacity of 153 in double and single apartments. Todd is now emphasizing an improvement of the existing facilities. They are buying another pool table because of popularity of the game with the ladies.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

LET OLDER AMERICANS BE OF SERVICE

Published monthly by the Montana Commission on Aging
Penkay Eagles Manor,
715 Fee Street,
Helena, Montana 59601
Dedicated to Montana's 70,000 older Americans

Forrest H. Anderson
Governor of Montana

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